

Open Evenings.

Gift Goods On Credit.

We will willingly open an account with you. You can take your time in paying for the goods, instead of leaving yourself inconveniently short of ready money just at a time you need it most.

Our stock of fine reception chairs is unusually good—gilt enamel, hand-painted and beautiful designs and shapes.

Lansburgh Furniture Co.,
1226 F St. N. W.

NOT SO FAT.

DR. EDISON'S OBESITY PILLS AND SALT
REDUCED MADALINE PRICE, THE POPULAR
ACCESSION, 38 POUNDS.

IF FAT, WRITE LORING & CO.'S NEW YORK O.
CHICAGO MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS—RUTHERFORD
CURED—BEST TRUSS EVER
DEVELOPED.

The popular actress, Madeline Price, one of the
leading lights of the Southern-Price Theatre Com-
pany, has taken Dr. Edison's Obesity Pills, and is
glad to tell that she has lost about 38 pounds of
her excess weight. Her friends are all rejoicing
in her success.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 2, 1897.
Loring & Co., Chicago.

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Cash only and the narrowest margin of profit.

JACKSON BROS.' Telling Cash Prices.

Yes, we have been busy. People appreciate more and more the immense difference between cash and credit prices. We get busier every day, and justly so. Our prices are lower than anything that has ever been attempted in this town before.



DESKS—Solid Oak—nicely carved, highly polished—under-shelf—conveniently arranged inside—**\$3.75**

Make your selection of Christmas gifts while our stock is still complete. A small deposit will reserve anything until needed. Combination Book Cases and Desks, Cabinets, Fancy Reception Chairs, Fancy-top and Onyx Tables, Parlor and Banquet Lamps, Chiffoniers, Easy Chairs, etc.

Open evenings.

JACKSON BROS.,
3 Great Cash Furniture Houses,
917-919-921 Seventh St. N.W.

Mertz and Mertz,
"New Era" Tailors.

Your Holiday Suit or Overcoat.

There is an old adage that—"The world respects those that respect themselves!" You will no doubt give away lots of Christmas presents—why not make a serviceable and substantial present to yourself—for instance, a new Suit or a new Overcoat. If you respect yourself—Clothe yourself rightly and stylishly—and people will have that much more respect for you. It's an incontestable fact that no tailors in the world make such truly excellent clothes for so little money as we do. This season our business has gone ahead with leaps and jumps—that's the best proof of our peerless and unsurpassing values.

By the way, come down and see us this evening and you'll find some wonderfully rare bargains in this week's Special Sale of \$2.97 Trousers and \$8.87 Coat and Vest. We'll be open till 9 o'clock P.M.

Mertz and Mertz,
"New Era" Tailors,
906 F Street N. W.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

History of the Present Law and Its Development.

To the Editor of The Evening Star.

In your issue of the 13th instant I notice a communication on the subject of civil service reform, over the signature of "J. B. F.", which challenges some attention.

The broad assumption of your correspondent as I understand his premises, is that we do not understand "why any respectable citizen of the United States should object to the progress made in civil service reform, and wish to go back on the brutal and demoralizing spoils system, surpasses my comprehension."

He further states, "The assumption that a majority of the people do not prefer the merit system, the wish is father to the thought. If the question is made an issue, and the matter thoroughly discussed before the people, a large majority will be found ranged under the banner of civil service reform."

The writer also assumes, generally, that let alone the present civil service, which is a political machine, and his assumptions and conclusions naturally attract attention and lead to a desire to discuss the question on its merits, without passion or prejudice in the light of experience.

When and how did the civil service reform law and a place among the laws of the United States? Did the people petition Congress to pass such a statute? If so, the records of Congress will show it.

The law was passed in 1883 by a Republican Congress, but the pattern of the bill was with Senator Pendleton, a Democrat.

The inspirers of the bill were a political faction known as mugwumps, who saw no political future for themselves, except through some such machinery as a civil service measure has afforded them.

However, they succeeded in securing the services of Senator Pendleton in getting the measure before Congress. The law after it had hung between life and death for a season in both houses was finally passed under a suspension of the rules, and the sickly state of the country was a healthy vitality until Grover Cleveland became President. Up to that period it had been confined in its operation to the clerical force of the government, and hence attracted very little attention beyond the ridicule cast upon the absurd questions propounded to applicants for position.

The common-sense so illy adapted to discovering fitness for the duties involved, that it rendered this machine very much of a farce.

The coming up to that date had only been extended to its original intent—that of improving the clerical service of the government. Nobody had cared much for civil service reform, and nobody was disposed

to interfere with it so long as it was confined to what was claimed to be its intent by its inventors.

But when Mr. Cleveland assumed to repeal laws that had been on the statute books and had been duly honored by the government in all its departments for some three decades, without any regard to the fact that they were the work of a thoroughly for his action, public attention became aroused at these acts of usurpation, and public sentiment began to assert itself against his indefensible conduct, and then an issue began to develop, that is growing daily in power, and which will not be settled until Congress has thrown such safeguards around the people and their laws and rights as will disavow all future usurpations of executive power.

There was no organized opposition to the civil service commission until the year 1896, when the people discovered that it had been seized upon by the President to enable him to commit the grossest wrongs in its name. The official, grievous wrongs in its name, the extensions of the law far beyond the limits of its intent has aroused a public sentiment that has come to stay, and which will never be placated until the wrongs thus committed have been fully righted and the future is carefully guarded against their repetition.

Now that we have the civil service law with us and its capacities for mischief have been amply developed by the grasping hand of Mr. Cleveland, the people will take this matter in hand, and the abuses under this law will be atoned for by the people who have been drawn, and all who endorse the wrongs committed by him and who seek to perpetuate their wrongs through the statutes will find a reckoning day within the next three years.

No cry of "spoils and plunder" will avail when hurled against republicans who oppose the abuses under the civil service law, for the people do not readily discover why that anathema may not be as justly applied to the President, the Vice President, cabinet ministers, senators and members of Congress, who receive their salaries as the reward of their party triumph, are not as much spoliars as those who prefer to leave the matter of filling offices to the spoils system.

The civil service law is a proper invention, which, while it professes to be non-partisan, finds a way to secure a majority of places for democrats.

December 18, 1897. A. M. CLAPP.

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AFFAIRS IN ALEXANDRIA.

Wm. Lampher Reports to Police a Loss of \$160 by Theft.

Believes He Was Robbed by His Friend—Suspects Use of Chloroform—General and Personal.

Evening Star Bureau, 1226 F St. N. W. (Bell Telephone No. 106).

ALEXANDRIA, Va., December 18, 1897.

Mr. William Lampher reported at police headquarters this morning that he had been robbed of \$160 some time during last night. Several days ago, Lampher says, he, with a companion named Childs, arrived in this city, looking for work.

They secured a room at Mrs. Hudson's, 919 King street, but did not take their meals there.

Lampher said, he and Childs went to their room at the usual hour and retired. Lampher awoke, he declares, about 3 o'clock this morning and was surprised to find that Childs was not in the bed. He got up hastily, lighted the gas and investigated. His first thought was of his money, and he looked for it under his pillow, where he had placed it on retiring last night, but it was gone. Lampher says it is his belief that he was chloroformed.

Police Sergeant James T. Smith was assigned to the case and is now engaged in investigating it.

Bertie Miller Better.

Miss Bertie Miller, who attempted to commit suicide again yesterday by taking laudanum, was thought to be some little better this morning, and it is believed she will recover. This is said to have been the fourth time that she has attempted to destroy herself. A love affair is given as the cause.

Police Court.

In the police court this morning Mayor Simpson disposed of the following cases: Rebecca Quill, charged with disorderly conduct and fighting, was sent to the workhouse for twenty days. Dan Corbin, who escaped from the chain gang several days ago, but was recaptured, was given an opportunity to repent at police headquarters, where he will be locked up for the present on a bread and water diet.

Judicial Inquiry.

The judicial inquiry into the affairs of the Home Telephone Company, which is now in the hands of Receiver Robert F. Knox, will take place Wednesday next before Commissioner Callahan, whom the matter was referred by the court.

School Superintendents.

Among the school superintendents recently confirmed by the state senate were K. Kemper of Alexandria city, James E. Clements of Alexandria county, and M. D. Hall of Fairfax county.

Corporation Court.

In the corporation court yesterday, Judge J. K. M. Norton presiding, the following business was transacted: Marian F. Henderson qualified as guardian of her infant children, Maria C. Peyton, guardian, agt. J. F. Peyton, decree of reference, and John T. Callahan, appointed commissioner to report. A deed of special warranty was made by F. Price, city auditor, to William H. Smith, conveying a lot of ground on Alfred street between Orange and Pendleton streets, was recorded.

Assaulted His Wife.

A New York paper says Mr. Harry Kraemer, the well-known bicyclist of this city, was fined \$25 in Jersey City Thursday for assaulting his wife, who is also a trick bicyclist. It is now said that Mrs. Kraemer will leave the state and return to her home in Alexandria.

Stephen Swain's Funeral.

The funeral of the late Stephen Swain took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, on Wolfe street. The following acted as pallbearers: William Laatham, A. C. Uhler, A. H. Thompson, J. Jamieson, W. A. Moore and K. Kemper. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. J. E. Thacker of the Second Presbyterian Church.

Funeral of J. G. Lash.

The funeral of the late Joseph G. Lash, who committed suicide by jumping into the Potomac river from Bryan's wharf Friday morning, an account of which was given in this paper, will take place from his late residence, on Wolfe street, at 10 o'clock. R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate veteran, of the deceased was a member, will hold a meeting tonight to make arrangements for attending his funeral in a body.

The Revival Services.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church was crowded again last night to hear the second of the series of discourses by Mr. Crittenton, the merchant evangelist. The service tonight will be for men only. It will be held in the large auditorium of the Railroad Mission, and a good attendance is expected. Some special music has been arranged.

County Land Transfers.

Wm. Birch to S. Emma Veltch. Consideration nominal.

A. W. Armstrong to Alice D. K. Shattuck. Consideration, \$2,250.

Charles F. Wood to J. C. Lillian M. Eaton. Consideration, \$450.

C. E. Wood et ux. to Lillian M. Eaton. Consideration, \$50.

Mr. Redmond Injured.

Wilbur Redmond, a resident of New Alexandria, was quite badly hurt shortly before noon today by falling from an electric car on Royal street between Franklin and Gibson streets. Redmond boarded the car at New Alexandria, and after it had passed Franklin street he was thrown from it. He was picked up and put on the car and carried to the Royal street office of the police, where he was taken to the hospital.

On examination it was found that his face was badly lacerated and bruised, several of his teeth knocked out and that he had sustained other injuries about the body. After the wounds were dressed he was placed on the "bobtail" car and taken to his home at New Alexandria.

Redmond made a brave effort to prevent Redmond from jumping off the car, but he broke away from him.

Brevities.

John Allen and John Dowell, the two tramps who were fined by Mayor Simpson yesterday, were unable to pay the amounts assessed against them, and are today working in the chain gang.

At the Arlington Institute last night a reception was tendered the Cameron Club by Miss Dora Chinn.

It is said the Junior Order of United American Mechanics will request the city school board to have the Bible read regularly in the public schools.

New water mains are being laid on Wilson street between Fairfax street and Pitt street.

Mr. S. C. Uffelman, train dispatcher of the electric railway, has gone to Pennsylvania to spend the Christmas holidays.

John Stephenson, who has been quite ill, is thought to be improving.

At the meeting of Pylon Lodge, I.O.O.F., held last night, officers for the ensuing term were elected.

A New Trumpet Call for the Army.

In accordance with recent general orders, a new trumpet call has been added to the list of calls of the United States army. It is for use when the march is in "route step" or "route order" (Paragraphs 632 Cavalry, 328 Light Artillery, 246 Infantry Drill Regulations). The call is as follows:

Trumps.

"I'm awful glad, mamma, that I've begun to go to school."

"Why, dear?"

"Because we have a holiday every Saturday."—Eugene Blais.

At a Drugist's.

"At a drugist's, mamma, that I've begun to go to school."

"Why, dear?"

"Because we have a holiday every Saturday."—Eugene Blais.

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"At a drugist's, mamma, that I've begun to go to school."

"Why, dear?"

"Because we have a holiday every Saturday."—Eugene Blais.

GEORGETOWN ADVERTISEMENTS.

Fine 14k. Gold Pens, with Pearl Holders, for \$1.

This is an idea of the many useful and pretty gifts to be had here. It was just yesterday we saw jewelry store before making your purchases. We've selected a line of Diamond pens, pens and pens. We'll offer at less than cost prices for the next few days. We'll be sure to get you some.

Blackford's, 3125 M Street.

All Kinds of Layer, Pound CAKE, and Fruit

Next to the cakes you'll bake yourself, these are the most delicious and most wholesome kind you can buy. They're made and flavored and baked in a manner that the solemnly swear that the cakes are the best of their kind. They're made in the city. 5-lb. Layer and pound and 6-lb. Fruit Cakes.

Thomas L. Hume, 1204 32d St. det-181,14